



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

-John Rolland

Reflecting over the first year of my presidency and the year ahead, I am continually amazed at the energy and diverse passions that so many of you bring to AFTA. It has been an invigorating, challenging, and inspiring experience. AFTA does foster an exceedingly rare and precious kind of intellectual stimulation, collegiality, collaboration, and diversity that is unique in my professional experience and so difficult for many of us to find in our respective guild organizations.

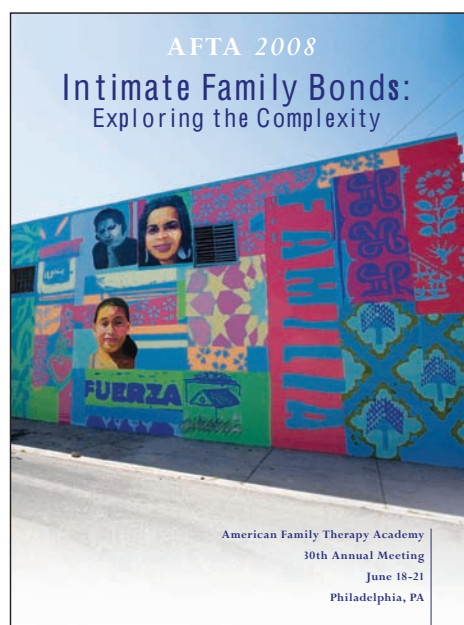
Guided by the planning and leadership of the NGI Taskforce, I believe that the Next Generation Initiative is spawning a lot of enthusiasm and ideas for the future development of AFTA. To date in 2008, we have record number of new members and had over forty prospective new member guests at the recent Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. We are planning new ways to involve existing and new members. These are healthy signs for the future of AFTA. For those of you who haven't, I'm asking each of you to recruit one new member this year.

I want to give a small preview of the 2009 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, which will have some innovative and special components. In addition to highlighting cutting edge work in our field, this year we are going to try something new in bringing both the Clinical-Research and

Annual Meetings into juxtaposition. The core idea is to bring the clinical-research perspective more directly into the Annual Meeting, while preserving a day that keeps the traditional clinical research conference structure on Wednesday prior to the regular evening start of the Annual Meeting. Also, we will be replicating a part of the very successful 2002 Annual Meeting in NYC post - 9/11. This year's conference theme will be focused on systemic responses and recovery from large-scale disaster and trauma. In that context, part of the meeting will be open to and make use of the New Orleans region's considerable local knowledge of professionals and community of helpers in collaboratively addressing topics related to the theme.

AFTA is evolving. I invite all of you to join in moving AFTA into its next generation!

## 2008 ANNUAL MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA



## A NEW STORY OF AFTA EVOLVES

-Carmen Knudson-Martin; Chair, Next Generation Initiative

Changing times bring new issues and the evolution of new stories to define us. We are witnessing this in AFTA. At the conference in Philadelphia, a new story about the nature of our academy was visible. There was lots of talk about openness, friendliness, and inclusion and how to engage the next generation. This transformational talk is part of a concerted effort by the Board and Next Generation Taskforce to not only bring up-and-coming leaders in the field into AFTA, but also to modify AFTA in order to meet the needs of the current context while upholding all that is unique about AFTA.

Thus the "old" AFTA story is also being told and retold, honored, and brought forward to the next generation. It is a

tale of membership that includes pioneers, innovators, and recognized and emerging leaders, who blend their ideas, practices, and passions within organizational collegiality. AFTA is a place where our field takes shape. We generate new ideas and challenge ourselves. We address the interaction of biological, psychological, relational, and socio-cultural dimensions, while holding a core commitment to equality, social responsibility, and justice. No other organization can tell this important story.

As the new story unfolds, new questions emerge. How do we engage new members? What is the process by which one becomes fully integrated into the AFTA community? What kinds of projects need to be done? How can conferences best fulfill our mission? The future of AFTA lies within this evolving story.

## REFLECTIONS

-John Lawless, 2008 Program Chair



AFTA's 2008 Annual Meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA. The meeting was filled with exciting conversations that featured an outstanding group of Plenary Speakers, Brief Presentations, Interest Groups, and Forums. The conversations examined and explored family therapy theory, research, practice, and training. And while the presentations provided us with some exciting avenues to explore, the conference was also designed to allow members to interact with each other, to develop new friendships and strengthen old ones. The Mural Tour and the Special Event at the Independence Seaport Museum were fun events to connect with new and old friends. In addition, the 2008 conference was also the launching of the Next Generation Initiative. It was energizing to see new people and to develop new relationships with some of AFTA's newest members. Overall, the conference was a wonderful time to engage in exciting conversations around family therapy practice and research while connecting with new and old friends.

--Editor's Note: see both "A New Story of AFTA Evolves" and the "Town Meeting" write-ups for more information on this fantastic meeting.

### AFTA Annual Meeting Tapes and CDs

that have recordings of all plenary sessions from 1992 to 2007 are available for purchase through Cambridge Transcriptions. The direct link is: [www.ctran.com/orders/AFTA](http://www.ctran.com/orders/AFTA). You can also find this link on our web site, [www.afta.org](http://www.afta.org).

## PLENARIES

### Intimate Bonds

excerpted from John Lawless' blog in the AFTA group on Facebook\*

AFTA's Opening Plenary was a wonderful start to the conference. Salome Raheim discussed and performed the topic of "Intimate Bonds." Salome opened the plenary with, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You." She deconstructed how the song is influenced by one's sociopolitical location and asked the audience to keep one's own sociopolitical location in mind as the plenary progressed.

Salome discussed the importance of song in her life and in particular, her connection with her siblings, their partners, her children, and her nieces. Salome surprised us by telling us that her family would be singing with her for the first time in a public event. Her brother-in-law, Steve, walked to the stage singing, "Grandma's Hands" by Bill Withers.

After this moving song, Salome brought her sisters on stage to sing, "Ain't No

Mountain High Enough" by the Supremes. Then, Salome's son, Josh, and her niece, came on stage to sing another Bill Withers's song, "Lean on Me."

Salome switched gears to highlighting how mother and son intimacy can be portrayed in song by singing, "If I Could, I Would" by Celine Dion. Salome's voice captured the emotional intimacy and her performance was deeply moving. Her son, Josh, then came on stage to sing a response to his mother.

To end the plenary, Salome and her family came on stage to give tribute to their mother by singing, "My Girl" by the Temptations. Salome and her family received a standing ovation for such a powerful and wonderful performance, yet analytic view of how intimacy is performed in song. Salome and her family gave the AFTA audience a beautiful gift and it was a fitting beginning to our 2008 Annual Meeting on Intimate Bonds.



### Intimacy Across the Generations

-Evan Imber-Black



This exceptional plenary, featuring the current work of Dr. Mary Catherine Bateson, provided an opportunity for us to reflect on the penetrating sense of generativity, encompassing not only our own grandchildren, but the young children of the world community. Dr. Bateson,

whose work has influenced the family therapy community for decades, offered us her particular gift of intergenerational wisdom, speaking to us in that very relaxed fashion that one most wants from a family, community, and interdisciplinary elder. Her soft style of presentation carried her fervent wish that we all consider the legacy we impart, not of reified ideas, but of openness, curiosity and the embrace of difference. Challenging the notion that seniors are only focused on taxes, social security checks, and Medicare, she informed us about "Granny Voters," an organization she spearheaded to

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engage elders to act, speak, and challenge political candidates to examine how the decisions made today will impact tomorrow's children. We learned about "Active Wisdom," the potential of older adults to live fully in an exquisite circularity, teaching those who are coming along, while simultaneously continuing to learn both laterally from peers and vertically from preceding generations and those newly born.

Martha Adams Sullivan, Executive Director of the Fordham-Tremont Mental Health Center, complemented Bateson's work through moving recollections of her own work with elders in New York City.



## **Family Therapy and Forgotten Bonds**

-Vicki Dickerson



The third plenary, moderated by Jorge Colapinto, included three presentations, each of which could have been a plenary on its own. Monica McGoldrick focused on siblings and sibling relationships, underlining that they are the longest relationships we will have in our lifetime. Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev, in a dynamic presentation, introduced, extended, and expanded our understanding of the LGBTQ culture and how, as family therapists, we have a responsibility to be current in our knowledge of the difficulties and issues of the queer community. Pat Minuchin, with her in depth work with foster families, brought one of those families into the room through a videotaped session,

helping us understand how to create important family bonds within foster families and between foster families and biological parents.

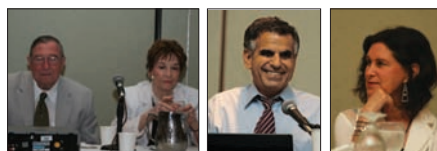


## **Innovations in Couples Therapy and Research**

-Vicki Dickerson



What a gift to be treated to current and ongoing research in family therapy. Don-David Lusterman, this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, moderated this plenary, first introducing Howard Markman, the awardee for Family Systems Research. Howard described to us his Relationship Education program and elucidated how it is a way to increase accessibility to family therapy services for underserved populations. Michele Scheinkman then described her multi-level approach using the construct of the "vulnerability cycle," about which she has written extensively. Finally, Peggy Papp reminded us of the importance of interactional patterns as a framework for understanding couples who come to therapy, bringing this to life through a video-taped sequence.



## **Human Rights Forum**

-Ellen Pulleyblank Coffey & Kaethe Weingarten

This year at the Annual Meeting, our goal for the Human Rights Forum was to present an overview of some of the most pressing human rights concerns affecting families with young children. Our hope was to generate discussion and the possibility of action groups developing over time. The following topics were covered: detention and deportation of undocumented workers--Jack Saul, John Sargent and George Soto; the aftermath of Katrina--Saliha Bava; issues in gay, lesbian, and transgendered families-- Robert-Jay Green; and families of national guard returning from Iraq and Afghanistan-- Lisa Gorbaty. Generative discussion ensued. The Human Rights Committee is open and interested in new committee members.



## **Cultural and Economic Diversity Forum**

-Jane Ariel

This year's forum, brought to AFTA by the Center for Family, Community, and Social Justice, was as exciting as the eagerness of the large team of front-line people who presented their work. They utilized role-plays, power point, and contextual description to illuminate what happens in their community-based adolescent and family counseling program. Schooled in the notion of accountability within a social justice framework, these

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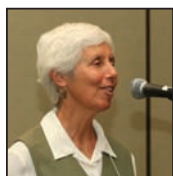
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presenters showed how at all different levels in the organization--from administration, to supervisors, to therapists, to clients--there is a commitment to understanding and dealing with the importance of power differentials, particularly those involving racism. In spite of the multiple stressors and frequent crises, being collaborative and respectful forms a theoretical foundation of the therapeutic work. The moving way in which the commitment to accountability plays out for everyone was an important focus of the forum.



## The Economic and Social Justice Committee

-Jane Ariel



The Economic and Social Justice Committee has been working in various areas. Included in this update is its definition of social justice, which has been evolving over a period of time. It also successfully held the first two of its "Listening Circles," which provide an opportunity for conference participants to speak about anything that has concerned or moved them during the proceedings. The committee is also in the process of writing up a history of its achievements, which it can pass on in order to maintain important continuity. Finally, it has been conducting a survey to find out the experience of past diversity guests. On its agenda for the immediate

future is deciding the focus of the forum for the New Orleans' conference.

### **Social justice definition:**

AFTA's approach to social justice addresses the structural oppression that plays out within families and at different levels within society. Structural oppression refers to the situation in which people are divided into groups that have unequal ability and opportunity to access power and resources. AFTA's approach challenges institutional and interpersonal policies and practices as well as underlying ideologies that perpetuate the continuation of these contemporary and historical injustices. It calls for personal and collective action to establish equitable social participation, allowing individuals, families, and communities the possibility to exist with dignity, self-determination, and physical and psychological well-being.

## THE SPECIAL EVENT





## THE MURAL TOUR



## THE LAPPIN PARTY





## Town Hall Meeting

-Vicki Dickerson

John Rolland, AFTA's President, started the meeting by mentioning several developments that have been crucial to AFTA's ongoing development and presence. He talked about the Next Generation Initiative and the effort to solicit new members. As part of this he encouraged each AFTA member to bring in one new person each year. John announced that the 2009 meeting will be in New Orleans, preceded by the Clinical Research Conference on Wednesday. John also mentioned that we are working on a database of members for the website.

When the meeting opened up for comments, there was a sense of wonderful openness in the group, with comments including the "sense of connection" and "respect," a "welcoming," some excitement about the "change in our culture," and a noticing that there was an effort to make AFTA a place to share new ideas. Specific gratitude was offered for facilitated listening circles, new member groups, Ari's presentation, potentials for mentoring and for integrating newer members with older ones. Specific suggestions included alternate housing, cutting down the length of the plenaries, having regional meetings, including new members with older members in interest groups, using examples of diverse populations in presentations, and using the web site for descriptions of interest groups and committees.



## Awards Ceremony

-Jay Lebow

Congratulations once again to the 2008 awardees whom we recognized at our recent annual meeting. Howard Markman received the Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research Award for his work in developing PREP, one of the most widely researched and disseminated methods for relationship education. Jack Saul received the Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice Award for his work with the Kosovo project and in the aftermath of the World Trade Center tragedy. Patricia Minuchin received the Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy Award for her incorporation of developmental psychology into family therapy, most especially in the project she conducted with Salvador Minuchin in the Foster Care system. Harlene Anderson received the Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory & Practice Award for her development of Collaborative Therapy. Don-David Lusterman received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifetime of clinical work with families, his collaboration with colleagues in AFTA, and his development of a method for helping couples who are experiencing affairs.



## An ECM Experience

-Jean Malpas

This year was my 3rd AFTA conference as an Early Career Member. Once again, AFTA's meeting confirmed itself as a unique opportunity for wonderful encounters. Listening to Mary Catherine Bateson reflect on her father, presenting together with Arlene Lev on transgender issues, and getting support and feedback from people I respect and admire were just a few of those moments. Also, the ECM gathering and the greeting groups organized by the Next

Generation Initiative affirmed how welcoming AFTA is to younger and newer members. Yet, perhaps the most delightful intergenerational exchange happened in Jay and Joyce Lappin's garden. I found myself getting to know my mentors, teachers, and my own students! I am grateful to have a context where I connect with the brains and hearts of those who inspire me.



## Table of Remembrance

-Rachel Dash

The year leading up to the 2006 Annual AFTA Meeting in Chicago had the family therapy community reeling from the deaths of so many of our colleagues. Some had been members of AFTA and some had not. That year AFTA lost members Mabs Mango, Bette Gilman-Rosenbaum, Cliff Sager, Len Sharber, and Marianne Walters. Paulette Hines, AFTA president at the time of the Chicago meeting, and I, the 2006 program chair, struggled to find a way for AFTA as a community to grieve and honor these friends and colleagues. We searched for openings in the packed schedule in which to offer memorial celebrations. We confronted difficult choices such as whether to offer a special memorial event remembering and honoring Marianne Walters as a beloved founder in the field or to maintain AFTA's peer ethos of collegiality even in our grieving process. We consulted many of you.

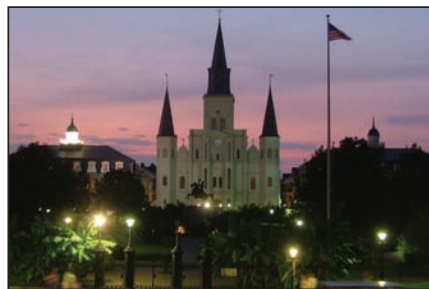
This process resulted in the Table of Remembrance, a space for remembering and honoring those who had been a part of our AFTA community by keeping them present through displaying their pictures and life stories. While individuals are welcome to organize their own memorial gatherings during the annual meeting, the AFTA Table of Remembrance has continued each year as we have been touched and saddened by the deaths of more members of our AFTA community, past and present: Tom Andersen, Insoo Kim Berg, Jay Haley, Lynn Jacob, Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy, John Pearce, and Lyman Wynne at the 2007 meeting in Vancouver, and Tom Conran, Fred Ford, Beatriz Molina, and Michael White at the 2008 meeting in Philadelphia.

Editor's Note: Michael Searle also passed away in 2008. We include an *In Memoriam* item here.

## AFTA 2009 Annual Meeting

-John Lawless, 2009 Program Chair

Get ready for "The Big Easy." Our next Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 24 to June 27, 2009. The Annual Meeting will focus on systemic responses to recovery from disaster. The committee is hard at work identifying plenary speakers and topics, and the call for Brief Presentations and Interest Groups will be coming sometime in October. In addition to the Annual Meeting, the Clinical Research Conference will be held on June 24, 2009 with Guillermo Bernal as the conference chair. The combination of these two events in the backdrop of New Orleans will provide us an exciting opportunity to discuss cutting edge issues, programs, and theory around issues of recovery from disaster. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!



## AWARDS NOMINATIONS FOR 2010

AFTA is soliciting nominations for its annual awards for 2010. The awards that may be given in a year are:

Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research

Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory & Practice

Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy

Lifetime Achievement Award

Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice

Descriptions of these awards are on our web site.

Submit nominations to Jay Lebow at [j-lebow@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-lebow@northwestern.edu) by January 15, 2009.

## EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT AFTA

Pledge your support through annual giving with a check to: AFTA, 1608 20th St, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009. Or, you can visit the AFTA homepage, [www.afta.org](http://www.afta.org) and click on the box "Pay Dues Donate On-Line. Thank you.



## PERSONAL UPDATES

**Jane Ariel:** On a completely personal summer note, I am reporting just back from an exciting month walking in different parts of the world. After beautiful hiking in the Maritime Alps outside of Nice, I walked along the coastline of Wales, looking both at the rugged rocky terrain by the water as well as the bucolic meadows and flowers inland. From there, I explored Armenia (via Tibilisi, Georgia – where I personally couldn't see the effects of war) with a wonderful group of Israeli walkers. All in all, it was a splendid and renewing experience.

**Corky Becker and John Sargent:** John Sargent has accepted a position as Chief of Child Psychiatry at Tufts Medical School, starting January 2009. He will be moving to Massachusetts to live with Corky Becker. Corky will continue her work at the Family Institute of Cambridge, the Public Conversations Project, and her private practice. John is sad to leave Texas after 7 years. He appreciates all the opportunities and the warm welcome he received in Texas. He is excited about his new opportunity at Tufts. Corky and John are looking forward to this new phase of their lives, and the end of five years of commuting to see each other.

**Vicki Dickerson:** After a relaxing summer that included lots of golf (and another 1st place with trophy [!] in my flight in the Santa Clara County Women's Golf Tournament), I am struggling with the beginning of the semester with a class that is difficult to teach, and with editing a variety of publications, including this Update as well as a special section for *Family Process*. I am dreaming of a more balanced life where I can not only write and read and work and teach but also play golf and go to movies and walk my dogs. Is this possible?

**Jill Freedman and Gene Combs:** Jill Freedman and Gene Combs have been busy and happy in the last several months. Perhaps the most interesting single thing we have done is a trip to Rwanda in August, where we consulted with the trauma counselors of Ibuka, the organization of survivors of the Rwandan genocide who are helping other survivors. Together with Cheryl White and David Denborough of the Dulwich Centre Foundation, we are

forming an ongoing relationship with Ibuka. It is very inspiring to see how much they are doing with very little support. Jill continues to do lots of international training. Gene is starting a new job as director of behavioral science education for the University of Chicago affiliated residency program in Family Medicine at Glenbrook Hospital.

**Lia Fernandes:** I have recently coordinated/published the book, "Family Therapy, Net and Social Poetry" with workshops and conferences commented on by M. Santos and me about G. Cecchin, J. Griffith, M. Elliot, M. Alarcão, C. Sluzki, L. Hoffman, M. Pakman and A. Costa works, mainly happening in Portugal. This work is published in Portuguese, and can be obtained at [www.climepsi.pt](http://www.climepsi.pt) (info@climepsi.pt). I also wrote the preface to the Portuguese edition of Lynn Hoffman's book, "Family Therapy." I am a family therapist (since 1995) and teacher (since 1996) in SPTF, belonging to the board (1999-2004) and also member of IFTA (since 2000) and AFTA (since 2004).

**Jerry Gale:** After a challenging start of 2008 (many family members hospitalized), the summer proved to be a highlight. In June, our family spent a week at Yogaville, Virginia. Our daughter Hannah (8) had a seven-day overnight camping experience while Barbara and I had the week to meditate, do yoga, be vegan, and write. It was at this location the previous December that I started writing my book chapter on relational meditation. In July, we took a family trip to Paris. Invited by the parents of a foreign exchange student who had stayed with us, we stayed in their Paris house and journeyed through France together. They were incredibly generous and gracious hosts. Planned on short notice, this was a trip of a lifetime. Now to find a way to go spend a summer in France??

**Jan and Nick Goldman:** Jan and Nick Goldman celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary together with their children and grandchildren in Boston, Massachusetts over Labor Day weekend.

**Herta Guttman:** In February, I was lucky enough to receive a radioisotope treatment that is specific for large-B-cell lymphoma. So far, I feel completely well. Frank and I spent the summer at our country place, a highlight

of which was the three-week visit from daughters and sons-in-law and four grandchildren. Now, I am preparing to use my family therapy experience to train volunteer facilitators for a dialogue group between Jews and Israelis and Moslems and Arabs that has been meeting for five years. I will also be attending a course on Dr. Faustus in literature and music. And then there's the research on women with borderline personality disorder.

**Scotty Hargrove:** Scotty Hargrove, formerly chair and professor of psychology at the University of Mississippi, is now Kulynych/Cline Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. He also is president of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

**Paulette Hines:** The last year has been one of ups and downs. My father suffered two strokes and my younger brother died this past summer. On the rosier side, my youngest son got married to a lovely and brilliant young woman and my eldest son has finally left us with an empty nest. On the professional side, I am honored to be the 2008 recipient of the American Psychological Association, Division of Family Psychology's Carolyn Attneave Diversity Award for special contributions to the promotion of diversity in family psychology and special contributions to the lives of diverse families.

**Florence Kaslow:** Florence (Florrie) Kaslow was very pleased and excited to receive the American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Practice of Psychology at the APA convention in Boston in August. Her daughter, Nadine, also an AFTA member, hosted a dinner in her honor. Other AFTA members present were David McGill, Susan McDaniel, and Michael Gottlieb. International family therapy/psychology continue to occupy much of her time; she has just completed writing a chapter, "International Family Psychology" for the Handbook of Family Psychology, edited by James Bray and Mark Stanton. This volume will be published in 2009 by Blackwell/Wiley.

### Editor's Note

**Florence Kaslow's** citation read, "Her foresight in establishing and serving as first president of the American Board of Forensic Psychology advanced this specialty field. Her involvement



as an early president of Div. 43 (Family) and formalizing the Journal of Family Psychology during her presidency, her founding and becoming first president of the International Family Therapy Association and serving as president of the International Academy of Family Psychologists are all testaments to her dynamic energy; inclusive, stimulating leadership style; and 'can do' philosophy."

**Rob Keith:** Rob Keith is a member of the group practice Matrix Health Systems in Burlington, Vermont. His practice specialties are couples treatment, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other anxiety disorders.

**Jodie Kliman:** I teach at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, where I have been most excited about my teaching work with refugees, supervision, our growing Latino MH program, narrative work, and peace psychology. With my husband, David Trimble, I recently wrote and, in Sweden, taught network approaches to grief work (including ours, over our son), and trained staff of an arts and dialogue program for Israeli and Palestinian teens, Artsbridge Camp. I am also immersed in refining and writing about a graphic teaching tool for addressing multiple domains of privilege and marginalization in the family members of both clients and therapists.

**Carmen Knudson-Martin:** What a wonderful summer! With my colleague Anne Rankin Mahoney, I gave birth to an edited collection of studies from my Contemporary Couples Study. The book is called "Couples, Gender, and Power: Creating Change in Intimate Relationships" The studies explore couples across the life span and across cultural contexts. And at home, my daughter gave birth to our second grandson. Such joy a new life brings! At AFTA I have seen the Next Generation Initiative take wings. We are beginning to fly toward the future and look forward to getting to know many new members.

**Roger Lake:** One hundred words should be enough to say that I'm more hopeful than I've been in a long time. By the time this gets into the update, I'm afraid I will wonder why. Writing on 9/11/08, I feel the poignancy of the country dragged further into chaos every day, as just about everything continues to go wrong, and yet the political system continues

to look like we're going down the same road. I am determined to think of this unsettledness as the result of 40 years of disappointment clouding what I feel deeply in my heart. So, I'm sticking with my heart. Family therapy hasn't, and won't, save the world, but my practice and our community help me keep my hope alive.

**Judith Landau:** Judith Landau is enjoying new marriage and life in beautiful Colorado. Serving as President of International Family Therapy Association 2007-2009, she's busy as director of Recovery Resource Center. Some 2008 publications are *Invitational Intervention: The ARISE Model For Engaging Reluctant Substance abusers In Treatment*, co-written with J. Garrett, *Linking Human Systems: Strengthening individuals, families, and communities in the wake of mass trauma*, with M. Mittal and E. Wieling, *Journal of Marriage and Family Therapy*, and finally the AFTA Monograph with *Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Impact on identity and ambiguous loss in the family*, J.L. Hissett.

**Arlene Istar Lev:** What an exciting year of conferences and presentations. After 25 years doing LGBTQ family therapy, it feels like suddenly the world woke up and is interested in what I do! I have developed a collaborative program with the University at Albany, School of Social Welfare and the Capital District Lesbian and Gay Community Council to have MSW interns training in LGBTQ family therapy. I am also teaching a class in Sex and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective for Empire College (thank you John Lawless!). On a personal note, my 13-year old, 6'1" son, becomes Bar Mitzvah this October 18!

**Stephen Madigan:** Stephen is about to launch [www.therapeuticconversations.com](http://www.therapeuticconversations.com) in late October 2008. The TC site is a fabulous assortment of keynotes, workshops, and one-on-one interviews dating back to 1993. Therapeutic Conversations Live! is an 'alternative other' approved CE designation, and the material is sent in streaming video. If you, your team, and students are interested in watching many of the great therapists of our time speak on issues of social justice, gender, class, race and queer topics, while demonstrating their practice of therapy with a wide range of common issues - this is definitely a site for sore eyes! Contact Stephen at [www.stephenmadigan.ca](http://www.stephenmadigan.ca).

**Barry Mason:** I have been teaching in SE Asia and Australia during July and August - as well as having some nice holiday, of course. Members might be interested in a couple of articles that are out/in press. One is an idea in respect of greeting women who do not shake hands because of religious beliefs. It's called - 'The Bridging Card: Connecting Across Difference' (Context, August, 2008). 'Context' may be a bit difficult to get hold of outside the UK so email me if you would like a copy. The other paper is 'Relational Risk-Taking, Men and Affairs' and will appear in the *Journal of Family Therapy* in November.

**Justin McPheters:** I recently finished my PhD from Syracuse University. As faculty at the Chicago Center for Family Health, I coordinated multi-couple groups for couples living with MS. After partnering with the MS Society, we now look to involve other organizations. I was recently appointed a lecturer at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. I started teaching an assessment and intervention course at the Adler School of Professional Psychology. I look forward to presenting my dissertation research on couples and MS at the AAMFT and CFHA annual conferences as well as working on publications from that work.

**Ellen Pulleyblank Coffey:** Some periods of life are filled with good fortune. My family and I are in one of these periods. My superstitious self says it's dangerous to admit it, but I thought I'd let you all know anyway. Wonderful trips this summer, wedding of our daughter, which brought us all together to celebrate, are all part of this good time. I am happy to have returned to work, which right now means back to seeing clients, writing a paper, and thinking with others about AFTA in New Orleans. I am also studying Native American Women's literature and of course working for Obama.

**Phoebe Prosky:** Phoebe Prosky attended the Training Conference of the European Family Therapy Association in Toulouse, France in September, representing the Training Division of the International Family Therapy Association, of which she is Coordinator.

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**Laura Roberto-Forman:** Laura Roberto-Forman is studying with Rodney Yee and Kaliji as I start work toward 500-hour certification in yoga. In ancient Hindu philosophy, there is no time – time is a wheel, which revolves with all our actions, intentions, and connections within its energy matrix, and leads into shapes of nations, relationships, and identities many years hence. A very Nagy-ian concept! In this microscopic turn of the wheel, I am supervising psychology residents and am honored to be working on the upcoming Winter Monograph with Martha Sullivan and MaryAnna Ham.

**Ramon Rojano:** “All Aboard the Middle Class Express”

The “Middle Class Express,” one of the most passionate ventures of my life, took off in Raleigh. The first 36 participants now “ride” their own “engines,” guided by Family Life Coaches. The target 1,000 participants will work towards middle class life style in 5 years. Family Life Coaching is developmental and combines executive coaching with Community Family Therapy. Now I manage 2000 workers in a department that integrates Mental Health, Public Health, and Social Services, a dream for Larger Systems fans. Come On Down and ride your own Express! Mi casa es su casa.

**Pat Romney:** Sorry I missed this year’s conference. I’m looking forward to my service on the Board! Good professional news is my new appointment as a core faculty member in the new Master’s in Organizational Psychology Program at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. Good personal news. My husband has retired from the school system and we are having great fun!

**Margery Shelton:** This has been a year of enormous change. After 4 1/2 years as Clinical Director of the Southern California Counseling Center here in Los Angeles, I returned to my practice. In addition to rebuilding that, I am building my organization consultation practice. My focus there is on collaborative leadership. David Marsten and I presented at the AFTA Annual Meeting. I will present at the Los Angeles County Psychological Association this fall. My teaching in SCCC’s

Family Therapy Training Program continues. I’ll add teaching a section of the Family Therapy Program at Thalian which is directed by Robert Carroll.

**Judith Siegel:** I have recently added a Post-Masters Certificate Program on Child and Family Treatment to the MSW program I coordinate for the N.Y.U. Silver School of Social Work in Rockland N.Y. This 9-week course on Parenting is open to clinicians with a Masters in Family Therapy as well as MSWs, and might be of interest to recent grads. If you are in contact with former students, please pass this along. They should contact Dr. Judith Siegel, at (845) 398-4120. (See additional information under *Classifieds*.)

**Steven Spirn:** I love to do family therapy with young children to counter balance my work with teenagers and couples. If you know anyone to contact in Brooklyn to generate referrals, I would be happy to contact them. I am also doing hypnotherapy and want to incorporate it in my work with families.

Thank you. Steven Spirn@hotmail.com

**Sandi Stith:** I left Virginia Tech a year ago and took over the position as director of the marriage and family therapy graduate program at Kansas State University, where I did my master’s and doctoral work. I’m loving being back in the Midwest, out of the traffic and close to a close group of long-time female friends and my extended family. My husband still lives in the DC area so I travel back and forth frequently. I’m currently chairing the search committee for a new director of the School of Family Studies and Human Sciences. If you are interested in talking about this position, or if you know someone who might be, please let me know.

**José Szapocznik:** José Szapocznik, a member of AFTA since 1993, has been named chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he also serves as associate dean for community development and director of the Center for Family Studies. He has served on the faculty of the UM Miller School of Medicine for more than 30 years and has long distinguished himself as a pioneer in the field of substance abuse. Szapocznik has a distinguished record of service to the National

Institutes of Health and was appointed to the national advisory councils for the National Institute on Mental Health and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and was the first-ever behavioral scientist appointed to the NIH-wide AIDS Program Committee. Dr. Szapocznik holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology (1977) from the University of Miami.

**Richard Schwartz:** I continue to travel a lot to teach IFS and am sick of O’Hare but still love the work. Am involved in some new projects to take IFS to other systems, including an outcome study of IFS with a group from Harvard with 50 rheumatoid arthritis patients, training Vet Center therapists who are dealing with returning vets, starting an IFS-based training program for executive coaches, and mediating the dialogue between a group of Israeli and Palestinian woman leaders. Personally, my daughters are all out of the house, so dealing with empty nest parts.

**David Trimble:** Jodie and I wrote an essay on grieving in community for the Second Edition of *Re-Visioning Family Therapy*, published in August. In Stockholm this May, we taught network therapy at two Institutes, and presented plenaries at an international network conference. I am working with Artsbridge ([www.artsbridgecamp.org](http://www.artsbridgecamp.org)), a program to engage Palestinian and Israeli youth through arts and dialogue. Artsbridge includes a summer camp in the U.S. and yearlong programs at partnership NGOs in Israel and the West Bank. We train the kids for dialogue using the Tom Andersen reflection approach, adapting it to their Middle Eastern cultural context.

**Michael Unger:** If we had a chance to chat, I’d love to tell you about the wonderful travel I’ve been doing this summer with my family (Cape Breton Highlands, NYC, New Hampshire), about some wonderful research that just got funded for five years (resilience and how service providers help kids grow up well), and about the absolute joy my partner and I are having raising two teenagers who are practicing at getting their funny, snarky attitude just right, but still hopelessly good kids who mean no harm.... Lots of laughs every meal! But for now, and at this distance, I’ll just have to leave it at that... Looking forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans.



**Erika Waechter:** After 43 years of working as a clinical social worker, supervisor, teacher, and administrator, I turned 70 years in 2007. I decided to retire and so I now only work for 1 \_ days at the training clinic and mental health/drug and alcohol treatment agency that I helped co-found. I also do a few hours of private practice. So far I haven't found much time to do the "retirement" things I would do, like going through pictures to put in albums, work on family history, and just get things in order. I love working the amount of time that I am and still leading a very full and busy life. I have to say that I do also take it easier and rest more than I did.

## NEW MEMBERS: SELF-DESCRIPTIONS



### Regular Members

**Ellen Bobrow:** I joined MRI in 1998 and instituted the Strategic Family Therapy and Training Center, bringing back to MRI the ideas and influence of Jay Haley, one of my Mentors. I also consult, teach and do workshops in the Bay Area, the U.S. and abroad. In my spare time, I sail my 32-foot sailboat in the San Francisco bay, bicycle to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and am a patron of the San Francisco opera.

**Mary Kim Brewster:** Mary Brewster, PhD is a faculty member of the Ackerman Institute for the Family. She is an adjunct associate professor in Clinical Psychology at the City University of New York and at Long Island University in Brooklyn. Dr. Brewster has presented nationally on the topic of the impact of work on women's development and family relationship and on family therapy with immigrants from Asian countries.

**Michael Davidovits, Ph.D. LCSW:** is Assistant Director of the Project for Troubled Adolescents and their Families at the Ackerman

institute for the Family and Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He maintains a private practice specializing in family work with troubled adolescents and presents frequently on this topic.

**Judy Davis:** Retired from the University of Massachusetts, enjoys family therapy practice in Amherst, teaching (as time permits) at Antioch NE Graduate School, and occasional writing. She is the author of "Whose Bar/Bat Mitzvah Is This, Anyway? A Guide For parents Through A Family Rite of Passage," St. Martins, 1998.

**Judye Hess:** I have been in the family therapy field since the 1970s, working at the Worcester Youth Guidance Center in Massachusetts and various other family therapy centers on the east coast. I moved to California in 1977, worked at Xanthos Family Counseling Center in Alameda CA for three years, and became active in AFTNC. While in California, I studied Family Therapy with Alan Leveton, M.D. at the Family Therapy Center in San Francisco. I also took classes at the California Graduate School of Family therapy in San Rafael, CA with AFTA members, Karen Saeger, PhD, Robert Green, PhD, Russell Lee, PhD and Rodney Shapiro, PhD. In regard to my own teaching, I have taught family therapy consistently at the major bay area schools and have been on the Core faculty at the California Institute of Integral Studies since 1984. My private practice in Berkeley, CA has primary consisted of seeing couples, families and groups, since the mid-1980's. My published articles include Dual Dwelling Duos: An Alternative for Long-term relationships with co-author, Padma Catel (J. Couples Therapy, 2001), and Speaking from the Heart Integral T-Groups as a Tool for Training Transpersonal Therapists, with co-authors Brant Cortright and Michael Kahn, Most recently, I have written a book on Family Therapy entitled "Core Focused Family Therapy: Moving From Chaos to Clarity" with Ross Cohen, M.A., MFT.

**Gregory Miller:** I am a psychiatrist involved in academic and administrative psychiatry who works from a systems perspective. I am interested in the application of principles of systems and family therapy to organizational dynamics. I am currently the Vice President of Medical Affairs at the Brattleboro Retreat

in Brattleboro, Vermont where we have rich resources in family and couples work at all levels of care in the organization.

**Ruth Moorehouse** is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified sex therapist She is Co-Director of the Marriage and Family Health Center in Evergreen, Colorado, home of the Passionate Marriage® and Sexual Crucible® Approaches. She provides professional workshops on sex and marital therapy and also offers an Intensive Couples Therapy program.

**Becky Pizer** enjoys practicing, supervising and teaching from a narrative and social justice perspective. Currently at the Wright institute in Berkeley, she also consults at Alameda Family service (formerly Xanthos) and is mother to a 2-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter.

**David Schnarch, Ph.D.** is Director, Marriage & Family Health Center, founder of the Crucible® and Passionate Marriage® Approaches, and author of books for therapists and couples. Besides clinical practice, and researching his differentiation-based domestic violence program and parenting program, he will soon release two research instruments: the Crucible® Differentiation Scale and the Crucible® Sexual Relationship Inventory.

### Early Career Members

**Randi Cowdery:** I am an Assistant Professor in California State University East Bay's Marriage and Family Therapy Program. I received a Ph.D. from Loma Linda University in Marital and Family Therapy. Research and clinical interests include death, dying, and bereavement, narrative approaches to grief, older adults, couples and gender equality, and motherhood.

**Alida Merrill MSMFT, MPH** is an organizational consultant based in Rochester, NY. A 25-year veteran of corporate world, she brings a rich mix of executive experience, academic wisdom and clinical skill to her consulting clients. Alida integrates her business experience with her systems training and clinical practice skills to provide a

**continued on page 12**

continued from page 11, Early Career

uniquely effective solution for leaders. Her mission and passion are to improve the quality of family life by supporting the development of healthy workplaces.

**Amy Tuttle** is a faculty member at Pepperdine University and serves on the California Division of the AAMFT board. She co-authored a book and published research in Family Process. Dr. Tuttle maintains a clinical practice serving disadvantaged families and is a consultant to a family-focused, delinquency prevention program.

**Andrea Wittenborn** is an Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She completed her master's and doctoral degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy at Purdue University. Her research interests include attachment and affect regulation processes and depression in couple and family relationships.

### **Student Members**

**Frederique Bergondo:** I am a very hard-working and motivated individual who has a sincere passion for working with couples and families. I will graduate from Kean University with a Diploma in Marriage and Family Therapy this year and am very excited to be a new member of this exciting and interesting field. I look forward to continuing my learning and education in family therapy. I am currently an adjunct professor in the psychology department at Essex County College and Kean University and hope to one day be teaching family therapy as well.

**Katherine Caldwell:** I am committed to training and ongoing practice in family therapy and am excited to join AFTA and have a professional home to collaborate with the clinicians and researchers committed to excellence in family therapy study and practice. I come from a background in early childhood education and administration and seek to contribute to the practice and study of early interventions in family therapy.

**Serena Galloway:** I am earning my PhD in Clinical Psychology at Alliant International University in San Francisco. I received my Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and my Bachelors with double majors in Family Studies and Psychology from the University of Maryland. Research/clinical interests: family therapy, interracial couples, and socialization of children.

**Jaime Lynn Gilmore:** I am eager, hard working, motivated and extremely passionate about the work that I do and plan to do in the future. Through my experience and education I have discovered who I am as a professional in this field and have come to the realization that I am exactly where I was meant to be: working to support families in a way that makes sense.

**Naveen Jonathan:** I am a doctoral student in MFT at Loma Linda University. I am an MFT intern at Caritas Counseling in Colton, CA. I teach adjunct at California State University East Bay, Pepperdine University and Pacific Oaks College. I have been involved in national and division leadership with AAMFT.

**Jason Jones:** I am a 30-year old PhD student at CSPP. I came to CSPP after spending four years as a teacher. Since returning, I have researched LGBT family issues with the Rockway Institute. Clinically, I have had the pleasure of training at the Family Institute of Pinole.

**Alicia Marquez:** Planning to sit soon for MFT licensure I am working on my Ph.D. dissertation about Southern California rural workers. Being the only "free" therapist in a small town has expanded my critical theory thinking and increased me interest in research that could bring social change through teaching, supervision, and publishing.

**Seddigheh (Sandy) Moghadan:** I am passionate about life. I am hard working, high achiever, and aim for excellence in everything I do. I like helping others to help themselves and that is why I am in marriage and family therapy field. My goals are to research and teach cross/culturally in Marriage and family therapy. My interests are women, children, and social justice issues.

**Bernadette Torrez:** I am a current student at Alliant International University, CSPP - San Francisco Campus. Over the last several years, I have worked with highly distressed individuals, couples, and families with multi-generational trauma- addiction- domestic violence, and mental health problems. I am particularly interested in attachment and how attachment is transmitted in couples and families that face such overwhelming obstacles

**Elaine Willerton** is eager to begin her professional career upon graduation from Purdue University where she has spent the last years honing her clinical, research and teaching skills. Her area of expertise is Medical Family Therapy and she especially enjoys working with children and families. Currently she is researching depression in Primary Care as well as the well being military members and their families.

**Tom Wooldridge:** I am a PsyD/Clinical Psychology Student at Argosy University/SF Bay. I am a practicum student at Family Institute of Pinole, where I work with low-income, multi-stressed families.

### **Welcome**

Greetings to our new president-elect, John Sargent, currently serving as our Treasurer. (See his update along with Corky Becker's!). And welcome to our new board members: Pat Romney and Mona Fishbane. (Both Corky Becker and Judith Landau were re-elected as incumbents.) The Nominations Committee is currently working on filling out a slate for the next Executive Committee (Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and for a full Board slate. There is a major intention to include a strong diversity voice on both slates—diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and geography!



**\*Facebook:** There is an AFTA Group on "Facebook." Sign up now and connect with your AFTA colleagues. Remember, you can set your own privacy controls.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Thomas J. Conran

1957-2008

AFTA member 1992-2008

Thomas J. Conran, a clinical psychologist and therapist who helped people coping with disasters and war, died March 3, 2008, apparently of a heart attack. Dr. Conran worked for 25 years providing therapy to married couples, troubled children, and victims of violence. He traveled to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and New York after the terrorist attacks in 2001 to counsel the victims. Dr. Conran was an adjunct professor at McKendree College, Maryville University and St. Louis University, and served as associate dean and professor at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale. He won numerous professional awards including the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

*-no picture available*



### Michael Alan Searle

1949- 2008

AFTA member 1995-2008

Mike practiced therapy and was an active community member in Berkeley and the San Francisco for thirty years. He began his career at Fort Help and the San

Francisco Family Violence Project. He went on to become a program innovator in the areas of Family Systems Therapy and Narrative Therapy at the John F. Kennedy University Community Counseling Center. Mike was a talented therapist, teacher, supervisor, and most importantly, a devoted husband, father, and inspirational friend.

Although not an AFTA member, it is worthy to note that **Del Martin**, a pioneering lesbian activist and journalist died this summer just two months after marrying her longtime partner (once the California courts made gay marriage legal in the state). At her memorial in San Francisco in late September, Mayor Gavin Newsom said: "We are here to celebrate a life that was lived out loud; a life that was challenged; a life that was shared; and a life worth living." (Thanks to Ari Lev for bringing this item to our attention.)



### Beatriz Molina

1957-2008

AFTA member 2002-2008

Born in Medellin, Colombia in 1947 and passed away this past January, 2008. Beatriz was the first oldest child of 11 siblings; her father was a medical doctor and her mother still is a loving housewife.

She studied social work and also completed a 2-year post-degree fellowship in Family Therapy with Harry Goolishian and Harlene Anderson at the Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences in Houston from 1979-1981. [As a fellow alongside her, Susan McDaniel talked about how Beatriz always brought our attention back to the potential strength of families embedded in cultures.] Beatriz was a leader in family therapy education in her medical school and university in Medellin, where she worked for 30 years. She was a member of American Family Therapy Academy for many years. Beatriz was always, and continues to be, an inspiration for the development of Family Therapy in Colombia.



### Michael White

1948-2008

AFTA Member 1981-2008

Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory and Practice 1999

Michael White, from Adelaide, Australia, is well known as the leading developer of narrative therapy, a postmodern, post-structural theory and practice. He and

David Epston wrote the seminal book: *Narrative Means to Therapeutic Ends* (1990), and many invited Michael to speak in venues worldwide. He suffered a heart attack while having dinner with friends in San Diego at the end of a workshop day. Leaving behind loving family members including his daughter Penny, and friends and colleagues around the world, many mourn his passing. In the spirit of his article, "Saying Hello Again," we are confident that his ideas and work will live on.

See also: <http://www.narrativepractices.com.au/memorial.html>

## CLASSIFIEDS

### BOOK RELEASES

**Peggy Sax** is delighted to announce two recent publications: the book *Re-authoring Teaching: Creating a Collaboratory*, and the website, <http://www.reauthoringteaching.com/>.

Over 100 people contributed to these projects, traversing roles of teacher, student, client, guest visitor, and reviewer. Together, we illustrate how an interactive website can turn a course into a vital, collaborative learning community. While I primarily draw from experiences as teacher of narrative practice, I aim to appeal to a broad range of people interested in the ethics and practice of collaborative inquiry in human services. Please read about both on the website and sign the guest book.

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**Richard Schwartz** has just completed a new book on *Internal Family Systems Therapy and intimate relationships called You Are The One You've Been Waiting For: Bringing Courageous Love to Your Relationship*. It is available on the website [Selfleadership.org](http://Selfleadership.org) from Trailheads Press.

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**Michael Ungar's** new book *Too Safe for Their Own Good: How Risk and Responsibility Help Teens Thrive* is now available in the US, Australia, New Zealand, France, and his home country, Canada, where the book has been a national bestseller. Seems there are lots of parents, grandparents, and caregivers who are tired of bubblewrapping children, denying them the developmental opportunities that come with adventure and responsibility. The book's message is positive, with many examples from Michael's clinical practice that shows how we can help young people enjoy the "risk-taker's advantage." For more information and samples of the media coverage, go to [www.michaelungar.com](http://www.michaelungar.com).

### WORKSHOP INFORMATION

#### Center for Family Connections

November 13, 2008- 7th Annual Courage & Curiosity Celebration- currently accepting auction donations! Cambridge, MA

February 23-25, 2009- 4th Annual ACTION International Conference on Post Adoption Services. Cambridge, MA

**Art Mones:** sending everyone good energy for a wonderful Fall season. I will be co-leading a two-day Workshop on Internal Family Therapy with Kids and their Families in Ossining, New York, November 20-21 2008. Contact me at [amonesphd@aol.com](mailto:amonesphd@aol.com).

#### Working with Parents

Dr. Judith Siegel, and Prof. Hope Eliasof / Dec 4, 2008 -Feb 12, 2009 (9 classes, 5:15-7:15) Given the recent advances in our understanding of attachment, regulatory functions, and attunement, therapists need to re-think their approach to working with parents. This 9-week course explores different parenting styles, parenting issues related to child development, and challenges involved with special-needs children and children with commonly diagnosed disorders such as ADD. Parental conflict and divorce will also be studied.

This course is part of the curriculum for the Post Master's Certificate in Child and Family Therapy. It is being offered as part of that program and as its own course. Fee: \$720 (25% discount available for SSSW Alumni and Field Instructors). 13.5 CEUs will be awarded. Contact: J Siegel at 845-398-4120.

#### Practice Information

Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP Board Certified in Clinical, Couple, and Family, and Forensic Psychology. 128 Windward Dr., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418, USA Phone - 561-625-0288 / Fax - 561-625-0320 / [drfkaslow@bellsouth.net](mailto:drfkaslow@bellsouth.net)

Rob Keith has started a separate business in Personal Life Coaching. Specialty areas are adult life transitions, e.g., retirement, empty-nesters, career/life work dissatisfaction; college and university faculty concerns; retirement; ABDs; life planning; and helping motivated people to build a life filled with passion and meaning. His business is called "Activation Personal Life Coaching." See his blog at <http://robkeith.wordpress.com>

Susan L. Adler, LCSW, ACSW / Former Chicago Social Worker of the Year / AAMFT Member & Approved Supervisor / Pre-marital / Marital Coach / Divorce Recovery / Adult Individual Psychotherapy / Oak Park River Forest IL / 708-771-4636

#### Editor's Notes

Once again, kudos and many thanks to our photographer extraordinaire, Gonzalo Baciagalupe, and to Thorana Nelson for her willingness to copy-edit this diverse content set.

## Help Us Grow AFTA

- Encourage and help people you respect (including outstanding "ECMs") to join! Check the website for membership categories and criteria.
- Talk up AFTA with students and trainees, and at your talks! Contact Carmen Knudson-Martin, Chair of Membership ([cknudsonmartin@llu.edu](mailto:cknudsonmartin@llu.edu)) with recruiting questions.
- To request AFTA Brochures, contact the AFTA office.

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